NOTE BY THE CHAIRMAN

Item 42. Other Business. Arrangements for a Review of the General Agreement

In order to facilitate the discussion of this question the Chairman submits the following draft Decision as a basis for discussion.

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

NOTING THAT

(a) although substantial progress has been made since the General Agreement has been in provisional application in restoring normal conditions of production, in combating inflationary pressures and increasing productivity in agriculture and manufacturing industries, and although international cooperation has contributed to a substantial progress in the restoration of more normal trading conditions;

(b) international trade continues to be restricted by high tariff barriers and by widespread application of other restrictions;

(c) accordingly, progress towards the objectives of the General Agreement is being impeded; and

(d) a number of contracting parties are currently reviewing their commercial policies and methods of international collaboration in the field of international trade with a view to considering ways and means of making more rapid progress towards these objectives.

DECIDE

1) to convene a session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to meet on 15 October 1954 or at such later date as may be recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business:

(a) to review the operation of the General Agreement upon the basis of the experience gained since it has been in provisional operation;

(b) in the light of this review to examine to what extent it would be desirable to amend or supplement the existing provisions of the Agreement, and what modifications should be made in the arrangements for its administration, in order that the Agreement may contribute more effectively to early progress towards the attainment of its objectives.

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2) to invite contracting parties to submit written proposals and suggestions regarding this review to the Executive Secretary, for circulation to the contracting parties, at an early date and if possible not later than 1 July 1954;

3) the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business shall meet at a date to be determined by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary, in consultation with contracting parties, and in the light of the data submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 above, in order (a) if, in its opinion, having regard to the then existing circumstances, a different date for the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES than that suggested in paragraph 1 above would be more likely to be conducive to fruitful results, to recommend an alternative date for the consideration of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and (b) to prepare an annotated agenda for the review referred to in paragraph 1 above, taking into account any proposals and suggestions submitted by contracting parties;

4) concurrently with the preparatory work referred to in paragraph 3(b) above the Ad Hoc Committee on Agenda and Intersessional Business shall pursue the study which it has been instructed to undertake on the basis for future tariff negotiations;

5) the review referred to in this Decision shall be deemed to fulfill the requirements of paragraph 3 of Article XXIX.